which is awaited. A provision of Rs. 35 crores has been made during the 11th Five Year Plan for development/upgradation of Hubli airport for operation of AB-320 type of aircrafts.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However declaration of airports as international airports is undertaken on the basis of demands, traffic potential, land availability, resources, commercial viability etc. Considering these factors, at present, there is no possiblity of declaring Hubli as an international airport.

Plans to operate non-stop flights

2276. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government plans to operate non-stop flights to some distant countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to operate non-stop flights to distant countries to reduce travel time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India have informed that they plan to operate direct flights to New York and Chicago after acquisition of new Long Range aircraft.

(c) Subject to availability of traffic rights, the actual operations to any destination in a foreign country are decided by the airlines as per their commercial judgement.

Air congestion surcharge

2277. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has requested the various airlines not to impose congestion surcharge;

(b) if so, whether private airlines operators have responded positively to his request by withdrawing air congestion surcharge of Rs. 150 per passenger;